

SENATOR VANDIVER'S SINGING CAMPAIGN FOR A STATE OFFICE.

He Makes No Speeches, but His Songs and Stories Hold His Audiences Most Effectually.



CHARLES H. VANDIVER.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
At this time, when the State is being traversed from one end to the other by a host of speaking candidates, there is one who eschews oratory. While he is perfectly able to make the welkin ring with eloquence, if necessary, he is unobtrusively staging his way over the State.

It is a novelty in politics. Frank campaigns have been made by money, but the annals of political history in Missouri record no similar attempts to secure a nomination by a candidate entertaining a crowd, and at the same time making many friends by singing songs of his own composition.

Such a campaign Senator Charles H. Vandiver of Jefferson is making for the nomination for the office of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Vandiver has long been chosen as one of the best story-tellers in the State. He has entertained more than one crowd in his rooms at Jefferson City during a long winter evening, when the legislature was not in session. His celebrated "Fiddler's story" is quoted from one end of the State to the other, and as a negro minstrel he stands unsurpassed.

Sensor Vandiver is a modest man. When he went into the campaign, and, as he said, heard candidates making so much better speeches than he could make, he resolved that the best plan would be to sing a song or tell a story, and that is all the Senator does when his time arrives to speak. His verses to some timely tune are sung with a spirit that does not fail to catch a crowd, and his jokes convulse his hearers. In this way the man from Lafayette County first

METALIC FIGHT.
GOING TO BE HAPPY LAND OF CANAAN.

THIRD WAS A MR. TRILIER, QUITE AN HONEST FELLOW.
WHO COULD STAND DE GOLDEN-ROD DOMINION.

SO HE PUT ON HIS COAT AND PICKED UP HIS HAT.
AND LEFT FOR DE HAPPY LAND OF CANAAN.

WILLIAM J. STONE WANTS A TELEPHONE CONNECTED WITH DE PORTO RICO STATION.

DEY WANTS UNCLE SAM WITH DE MILITARY BAND.

TO KEEP ON DE SIDE OF LIMITATION.

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DOMESTIC HELP PROBLEM.

"Women in Factories, Men in Kitchens."

Mr. Carroll of the State Labor Bureau Criticizes Mistresses and Maid-Industrial Training Necessary.

When, and by whom, was the new, better, but too-old and too-late, "Domestic Help Problem" evolved? Or was it an ancient, universal, telepathic throughout the household world of America?

Whether evolved by some sour-tempered, malicious pessimist who had a grudge against the human race, or was the unconscious result of unsatisfactory environment (real or imaginary) among the household help of this country, the fact is undeniable that the domestic help problem is almost universally recognized by the wage-earning female members of society, and its results—present and prospective—are appalling.

What are the causes of this unhealthy and undesirable condition? Before an intelligent and effective remedy can be prescribed, not only must the character of the disaffection be known, but also the cause or causes which produced it. As the old-fashioned tale tells us, the cause is "too numerous to mention," but some of them should be considered.

The first cause is incompetency. Through lack of opportunity and inefficient training a very large majority of young women whose circumstances compel them to earn their own living are incompetent to take charge of a large, modern, well-equipped house and perform the duties of a real and thorough housekeeper—because they have not been properly trained for such duties. Their mothers, either through a mistaken sense of their maternal duty, or lack of ability, or both, did not teach their daughters to properly direct and perform the innumerable duties of a good housekeeper. At the risk of being considered ungrateful, I do not hesitate to say that a very large number of the mistresses of our land—those who depend upon servants—are incompetent, themselves, in this respect. While acquiring their education, and before their marriage, they did not learn to do housework themselves, and now, through the

endeavor to harmonize their tastes and temper, the atmosphere in which the servant girl must live and labor is apt to be the reverse of homelike, hence it is not surprising that she feels lonely, becomes dissatisfied and yearns for more congenial surroundings. The mistress who has not learned to do her own work cannot fully appreciate the difficulties of her servant or sympathize with her oftentimes cheerless lot.

Hundreds and thousands of young women who should be doing housework are now employed in stores, factories and laundries at starvation wages. Being kept standing all day long, confined in hot and ill-ventilated rooms, being compelled to eat their meals hastily and prevented from observing the ordinary physical laws, their health is undermined and they are physical wrecks early in life.

The average earnings of females who work in stores, factories and laundries—exclusive of office help—will not exceed \$14 a month, out of which they must board and lodge themselves. A large majority of these same women, if well qualified for good housekeeping, could secure constant employment in good homes at an average of \$12 a month in addition to their board, lodging and laundry—equivalent to at least \$3 a month. The State Free Employment office, operated under the supervision of the State Labor Commissioner, and located at 533 Century building, St. Louis, and 213 Temple block, Kansas City, could, within ten days, secure positions for 80 experienced servant girls at the wages mentioned, yet these offices cannot supply one-fourth of the demand for such help. Every woman who accepts employment in a store, factory or shop crowds one man out of work—the hundreds of thousands of idle men now tramping this country in quest of employment are proof, not only of the truth of this assertion, but of the baneful results of our present educational system, as well.

What is the remedy for this condition? And who will take the initiative in applying it? Good housekeepers are not born so—they must be specially trained. Every girl, regardless of what her station in life may be, should be taught how to do all kinds of housework in a neat, methodical and economical manner. When she assumes control of a home of her own—the manifest destiny of every true woman—if her circumstances will enable the employment of servants, her home life will be more happy and peaceful

if she understands the details of its management and care and the necessary duties to be performed therein; and, if, through circumstances or emergencies, she is required to perform these duties herself, she will be enabled to execute in strength, time and material by such education. No sane man would think of assuming control of an extensive and intricate business until he had first learned the details thereof and had fitted himself not only to actually do the work personally, but to know how his employees should do it. A home is an extensive and intricate business, the proper and economical management of which requires ability and experience, because its results are much more important than those of a commercial undertaking. The health, happiness and well-being of the family and society in general depend upon it.

A radical change is urgently needed in our present educational system. Practical, rather than theoretical training, should be made mandatory from the first grade up. Boys and girls should be taught the constituents of the food they eat, the clothes they wear and the manner of preparing the same for use. Their inherent aptitudes should be closely studied and special training given for that particular vocation for which each appears most naturally adapted. From 10 years up every boy and girl should be given manual training, to the end that they be fitted for the practical realities of life. To know how to make, keep and maintain a home is of the first importance—after that such "accomplishments" as their tastes indicate, and their means will justify, can be considered.

In addition to having the rudiments of manual training taught in all of the public schools, the State should establish and maintain one central manual training industrial school in every county, wherein should be taught a thorough and practical knowledge of housekeeping in all of its branches; sanitation as it relates to the home life; the use of tools—in short, such a practical course of study and training as will properly prepare the boys and girls for useful men and women, thus assuring them of lives of happiness and contentment by qualifying them to pursue an honored occupation. Certificates issued by such institutions to those who had completed the course of instruction would be guaranty of fitness and would soon become a sufficient recommendation upon which to obtain remunerative employment anywhere.

Aside from the present urgent need of

such a system of education on account of the dearth of capable house servants, ordinary business judgment should warrant their establishment. The idea of placing an untrained, incompetent girl in charge of a modern home, with its varied equipment costing hundreds, yes, thousands, of dollars, to break, destroy and waste, is surprising to say the least; and the same applies with equal force in the employment of male help.

Supplemental to the establishment by the State of such institutions, if the wealthy philanthropists who are bestowing their millions as endowments upon universities and schools for professional training would apply their surplus means to the industrial education of the masses, how much greater would be the benefit to mankind. Imagine if you can a situation more miserable than a home whose mistress cannot prepare a simple meal and the kitchen queen on a stick!

Will Missouri's bright, progressive educators, supplemented by the assistance of the women's clubs and similar progressive organizations, take active hold of this problem and endeavor to have the next session of our State Legislature take decisive and advanced action toward the establishment of such industrial training institutions? Missouri's public school system ranks high in the educational world—why not take the lead in manual training?

Pending the adoption of some method to relieve the present scarcity of house help, householders will evidently be compelled to employ male help. There is no reason why men should not learn to perform housework, and being strong and accustomed to heavy manual labor, after the necessary training they ought to be able to do a greater amount of such work than women. It will probably be a little awkward at first, both to the mistress and the "boy," but the novelty would soon wear away and the awkwardness would be preferable to no help.

But what a ridiculous commentary upon our present social and industrial conditions will be the spectacle of women doing the shop and factory work and the men, thus crowded out, transformed into "house-males" and "kitchen girls." The old adage—"In time of peace prepare for war"—is applicable just now. The servant-girl problem is a present and grave reality; the conditions which evolved it yet exist and are becoming more and more aggravated, hence prompt and energetic action is imperatively necessary to prevent the utter perversion of the time-honored tenets of well-ordered society.

Jefferson City, Mo.

M. V. CARROLL.

quently makes a better impression than some of the oratorical candidates.

At Ellsberry last week Senator Vandiver was present at a big Democratic mass meeting. W. J. Stone, John A. Lee, J. W. Farris and others had made addresses. It came Senator Vandiver's time to talk.

"While I was sitting on the platform just now," began the Senator, "a small boy, in long trousers that bagged fearfully at the knees, came up, Governor Stone was in the midst of an excellent speech. He was warmed up to his subject and the boy stood watching him intently. Finally, turning to me, he said:

"Say, Mister, when is that fellow going to get through hollerin'? I want to hear some music pretty soon." Now I expect to satisfy that boy."

Senator Vandiver then began one of his plantation melodies, and when the crowd cheered him again, he sang another, and then in a few short words told them what he was there for. This is the Senator's idea of how a canvasser may be made. His tall figure and his right sleeve hanging empty at his side never fail to evoke enthusiasm. He is original in his manner, and his bright stories have proved entertaining, especially at the close of a long meeting.

One of his songs dealt with topics of the time. It is sung to the tune of the "Happy Land of Canaan" and is as follows:

I LOOK TO DE SOUTH, AND I LOOK TO DE WEST,
AND SEE HILL BRYAN A COMIN',
SIXTEEN TO ONE, DE MUSIC BEGIN,
AS WE START FOR DE HAPPY LAND OF CANAAN.

CHORUS:
THEY FELL IN LINE, AND FOLLOW MR. BRYAN,
FOR DE DEMOCRATIC HOSS AM A GAIN-
IN,
AND DE DEMOCRATIC HOSS AM COMIN'
THRO' DE LAND,
PLAYING IN DE HAPPY LAND OF CANAAN.

A WALL STREET HOSS HAS A FELLOW
HOSS,
AND MARK HANNA HAS HIM IN TRAIN-
IN,
BUT HE CAN'T HOLD A LIGHT IN DE DE-

Tom struck a trail and started off haying. When his master arrived at the point he saw immense tracks, almost as big as a rail, as the Senator tells it. Excitedly the old negro exclaimed:

"Ther 'em all holler 'Gabe, w'at's goin' on here? Give me de time. The Senator shows a parallel illustration indicating that the Democratic party is going after big game and that it is best to "turn all the dogs loose."

Another song and story combined is like this: "WELL GO ALL AROUND THE MOUNTAIN, WELL GO ALL AROUND THE MOUNTAIN, WELL GO ALL AROUND THE MOUNTAIN, AND EAT THE BIRD AND HONEY."

"That's not right, Mister," said a visitor to the church in which the song was sung. "You should say honey, not hollerin'. That was what Jesus said." "I don't care," said Moses. "I don't know no better."

A verse of another of the Senator's songs is as follows, sung to the tune of "The Old-Time Religion":

THE OLD-TIME RELIGION,
THE OLD-TIME RELIGION,
THE OLD-TIME RELIGION IS GOOD
I AM OPPOSED TO THIS DICTATION,
FROM ANY FOREIGN NATION,
AND THE DEMOCRATIC HOSS IS GOOD
ENOUGH FOR ME.

Senator Vandiver was born on a farm in Virginia in 1840. At the outbreak of hostilities between the North and South he enlisted as a private in Company F, Seventh Virginia Cavalry. He carried himself well on several battle-fields and was promoted to ranking lieutenant in his company. He served under Ashby and Rosser, who were in J. E. B. Stuart's command. He was shot in the arm in a cavalry fight at Petersburg, and amputation was necessary to save his life. When the war was over he read the law for some time, but never practiced. For several years he edited a newspaper in Virginia, and in 1882 he was selected Sergeant-at-Arms of the West Virginia House of Representatives. He removed to Vernon County, Missouri, and afterward to Lafayette County, where he has since resided.

The Senator lives on a big farm near Highville. His brother has active charge of the place, but the Senator frequently takes a hand in conducting the institution himself.



M. V. CARROLL, Chief Clerk of the State Labor Bureau.